

Dependents & Survivors (continued)

The surviving spouse and child(ren) who are eligible for DIC are also eligible for the following:

» **The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)** provides reimbursement for most medical expenses.

» **The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)** provides assistance to obtain a degree and pursue other eligible education and training.

» **A Survivors' Pension** is a monthly benefit payable to a low-income surviving spouse and child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Burial

VA offers burial and memorial services to honor certain deceased Veterans:

» VA can honor a Veteran by furnishing an inscribed headstone or marker at any cemetery, or a medallion in lieu of a headstone or marker to affix to one that is privately purchased.

» VA can provide a burial allowance to partially reimburse the burial and funeral costs to certain Veterans.

» VA can provide a Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) for the next of kin and loved ones of a deceased Veteran.

» VA can provide an American flag to drape the casket of a Veteran.

» A Veteran and his or her dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

Time Limits: There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within two years of the Veteran's burial.

Life Insurance

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is a low-cost group life insurance program for Servicemembers. Coverage can be extended if the Servicemember is totally disabled.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) is an automatic feature of SGLI that provides payments to servicemembers who suffer losses such as amputations, blindness, and paraplegia, due to traumatic injuries.

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) allows servicemembers to convert their SGLI to life-time renewable term coverage after separation from service.

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) provides life insurance coverage for service connected veterans. If totally disabled, they are eligible for additional coverage.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) Provides mortgage protection insurance to disabled veterans who have been approved for a VA Specially Adapted Housing Grant.

Time Limits: Converting SGLI to VGLI:

Veterans who were separated from military service on or after November 1, 2012, may now apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 240 days from separation. Evidence of good health is not required for those who apply within 240 days of separation



The District of Columbia

Office of Veterans Affairs

**Conveniently located on Metro's Red Line
(Judiciary Square)**

Our hours of operation are

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9:00 am until 5:00 pm

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**For additional information on any services
contained in this brochure contact**

DC Office of Veterans Affairs



Mayor Muriel Bowser



DC Office of Veterans Affairs

Pledges to:

Treat you with Courtesy

Compassion and Respect

at all times

Communicate with you Accurately

Completely and Clearly

Provide Timely Service

Make our Service Accessible

Fully Answer your Questions

Concerns and Complaints

**Proudly Serving Those Who have Proudly
Served**

About OVA

The DC Office of Veterans Affairs, “OVA”

Provides assistance to DC Veterans and their families in obtaining benefit entitlements from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) .

Who Is Eligible

All DC Veterans and their families are eligible to receive assistance from the DC OVA. Based on your military service, you may be eligible for the following:

Benefits and Services Available:

Compensation

Service-connected disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to Veterans for a disability (or disabilities) that either: » Arose during service » Was worsened or aggravated by service » Is presumed by VA to be related to military service To receive disability compensation, you must have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions .

Pension

Pension is a tax-free benefit paid to wartime Veterans with limited or no income who are either aged 65 or older or who are permanently and totally disabled due to a non-service connected cause. Seriously disabled or housebound Veterans receiving Pension may also qualify for an additional Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefit. .

Time Limits: There is no time limit to apply for Compensation and Pension benefits.



Health Care

VA provides a number of health care services.

- ☐ Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- ☐ Domiciliary, nursing home, and community based residential care
- ☐ Treatment related to Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- ☐ Homeless Veteran Programs
- ☐ Specialized health care for women veterans
- ☐ Readjustment counseling
- ☐ Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- ☐ Medical evaluation for disorders related to Gulf War service or Environmental hazards.

Caregivers: VA supports caregivers who provide personal care services to Veterans who are seriously injured, chronically ill, disabled, or are getting older and are no longer able to adequately care for themselves.

Vet Centers: VA assists combat Veterans through a nationwide network of community-based Vet Centers. Counselors provide individual, group, and family readjustment counseling to help you with the transition to civilian life, treat post-traumatic stress disorder, and help you with any other military related problems. Other services include: outreach, education, medical referral, homeless Veteran Services, employment and VA benefit referral .

***VETERAN CRISIS LINE—1-800-273-8255—push 1 for immediate assistance**



VET SUCCESS

VA assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment through the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment VetSuccess program.

First, VA conducts a comprehensive evaluation to help you determine your future career path. Based on your evaluation, VetSuccess provides you with vocational counseling, job-search assistance, and other education and training services.

VetSuccess career counseling benefits are also available to you if you recently separated from the military or are using VA education benefits, even if you do not have a service-connected disability.

Education & Training

VA pays benefits to eligible Service members and Veterans pursuing an approved education or training program. There are four primary VA education benefit programs that cover Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members and Veterans:

» Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) » Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30) » Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) » Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 30).

The Post-9/11 GI Bill program provides financial assistance towards tuition and fees, books, and supplies, and it provides a monthly housing allowance. Eligible Service members may transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to an eligible spouse or child. VA pays a monthly allowance under the other benefit programs to help offset educational costs. Information about VA education programs can be found at www.gibill.va.gov.



Home Loans

Veterans and Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service members may be eligible for VA's home loan program. VA loans have favorable terms, including no down payment or mortgage insurance premiums.

» **Guaranteed Loans:** VA can guarantee a portion of a loan made by a private lender to help you buy a home, a manufactured home, a lot for a manufactured home, or a condominium unit for your own personal occupancy. VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes.

» **Refinancing Loans:** Whether you have a VA or non-VA mortgage, VA can help you refinance your loan.

» **Specially Adapted Housing Grants:** Certain severely disabled Veterans and military personnel can receive grants to adapt or acquire suitable housing.

Time Limits: There is no time limit for a VA home loan.

Dependents & Survivors

VA honors the sacrifices of Service members' and Veterans' dependents and survivors through many benefit programs:

» **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** is a monthly benefit paid to a surviving spouse, including additional payments for dependent children. It is available to an eligible spouse of a Service member who died during active military service or from a service-connected disability, or of a Veteran who was rated totally disabled at the time of death. **Parents' DIC** is paid to surviving parents based on financial need.

